

August 2020 Climate Summary for Denver

Hot and Dry and Smoky



A strong upper level ridge of high pressure which dominated the Rocky Mountain Region for much of the month resulted in a hot and dry August across Denver and the Front Range Urban Corridor. Smoke from large forest fires over the Colorado high country and other western states produced smoky and hazy skies across much of the region through the month.

TEMPERATURES:

The average temperature at Denver International Airport for August 2020 was 77.0 degrees F, which is 4.5 degrees above the normal of 72.5 degrees. This tied August 2011 as the Warmest August in Denver Weather History. During the month, 26 days had temperatures that equaled or exceeded 90 degrees and 6 days in which record temperatures were tied. The warmest temperature of the month was 100 degrees on the 18th.

ELEVEN WARMEST AUGUST AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY
SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

- 77.0 - 2020, 2011
- 76.8 - 1937
- 75.4 - 2019, 2007
- 75.3 - 1995
- 75.0 - 2012, 1994
- 74.7 - 1938
- 74.6 - 2013, 1878

TEN COLDEST AUGUST AVERAGE TEMPERATURES IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY
SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

- 66.5 - 1915
- 66.6 - 1927
- 67.7 - 1920
- 67.8 - 1884
- 68.0 - 1888
- 68.1 - 1968
- 68.2 - 2004, 1967

Record Warmth in August

Top 10 Warmest Augusts

T1. 2020* (77.0)

T1. 2011 (77.0)

3. 1937 (76.8)

T4. 2019 (75.4)

T4. 2007 (75.4)

6. 1995 (75.3)

T7. 2012 (75.0)

T7. 1994 (75.0)

9. 1938 (74.7)

10. 2013 (74.6)

Other Records This Month

- **26** Days Above 90F
 - Previous Record: 22 (2011)
- **17** Days Above 95F
 - Previous Record: 12 (2011)
- **7** Daily High Records Tied or Broken

* As of 3:00 PM, August 31st

PRECIPITATION:

Denver Received 0.35 inches of precipitation in August 2020 which is 1.34 inches below the normal of 1.69 inches. There were only 5 days with measurable precipitation during the month, with the highest daily amount of 0.15 on the 26th.

TEN WETTEST AUGUST PRECIPITATION TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY
SINCE 1872: INCHES

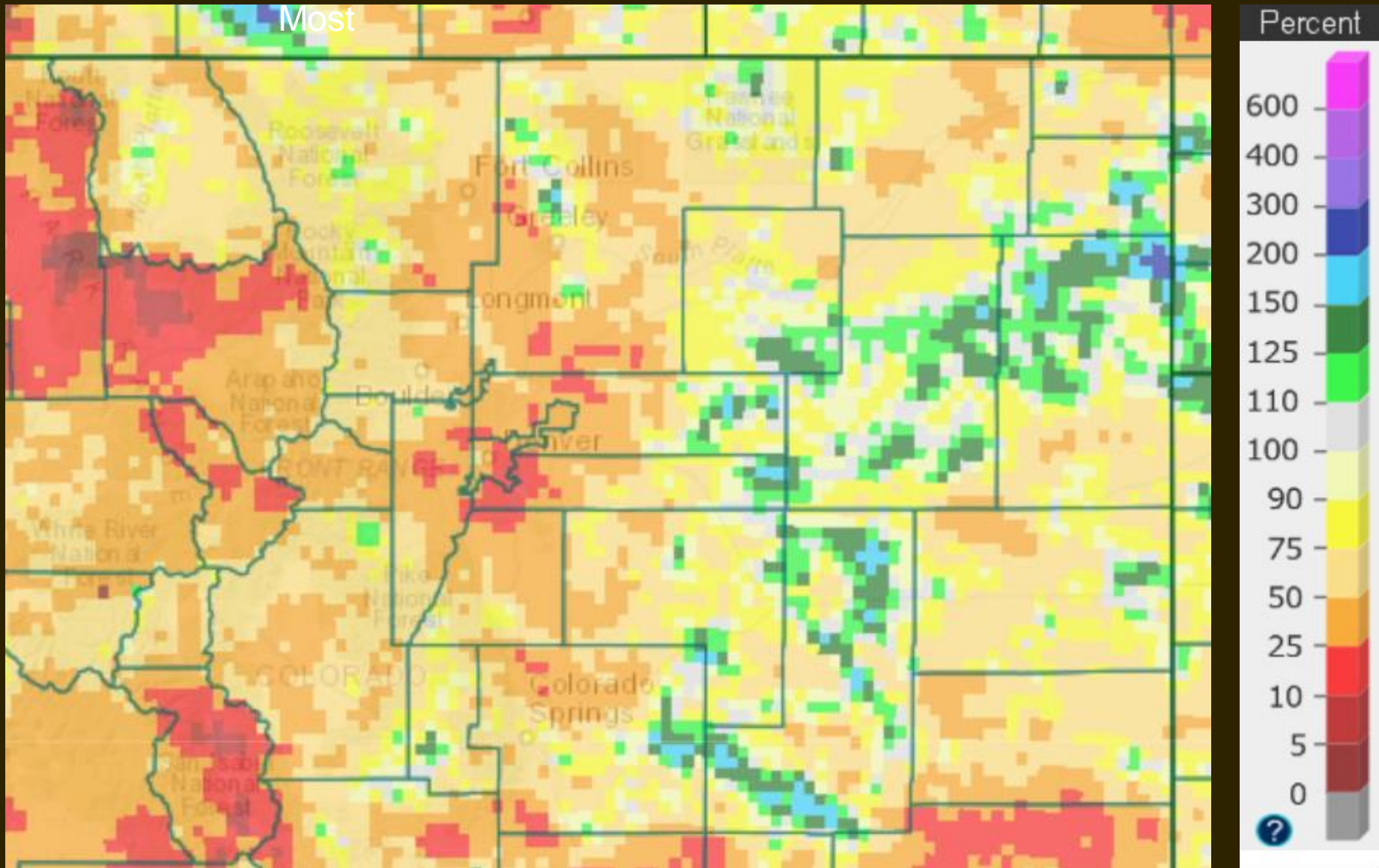
- 5.85 - 1979
- 4.47 - 1951
- 4.03 - 2008
- 3.87 - 1923
- 3.69 - 1991
- 3.52 - 1997
- 3.49 - 1921
- 3.37 - 1999
- 3.22 - 1936
- 3.20 - 1984

TEN DRIEST AUGUST PRECIPITATION TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE
1872: INCHES

- 0.02 - 1924
- 0.05 - 1917, 1900
- 0.06 - 1960
- 0.11 - 2012
- 0.16 - 1974
- 0.19 - 1948
- 0.22 - 2016
- 0.23 - 1907

August, 2020 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation

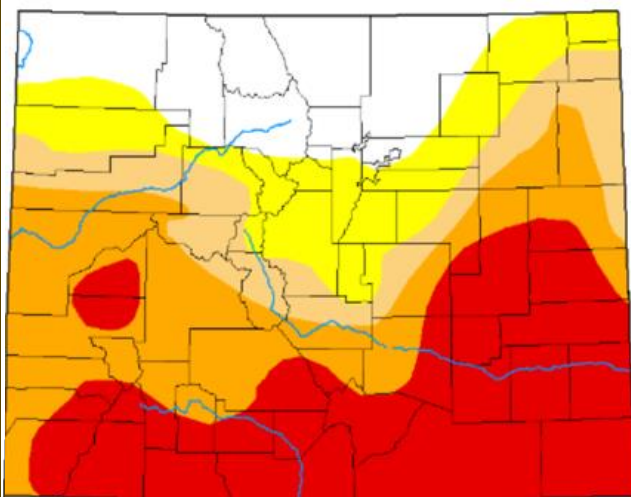
Most



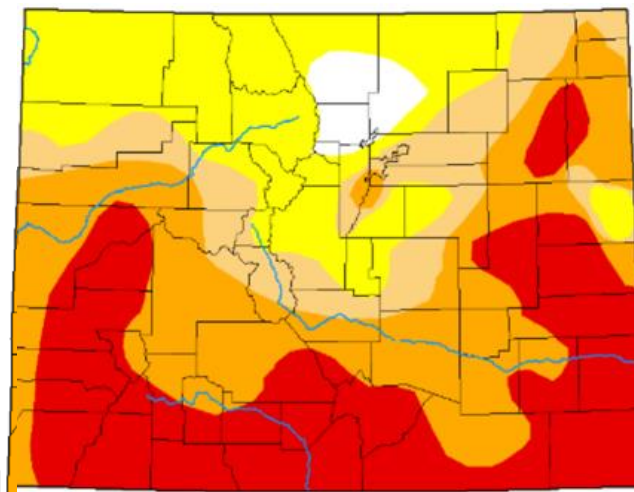
Most of north central and northeast Colorado saw below normal precipitation during the month of August. The exception to this would be the plains, mainly south of I-76 and portions of Weld and Larimer Counties. Metro Denver had the biggest deficit of rainfall. One example of this would be the Wheatridge Cooperative Weather Station which measured 0.10 inches of precipitation during the month which is only 5% of normal

The hot and dry weather worsened drought conditions across North central and Northeastern Colorado.

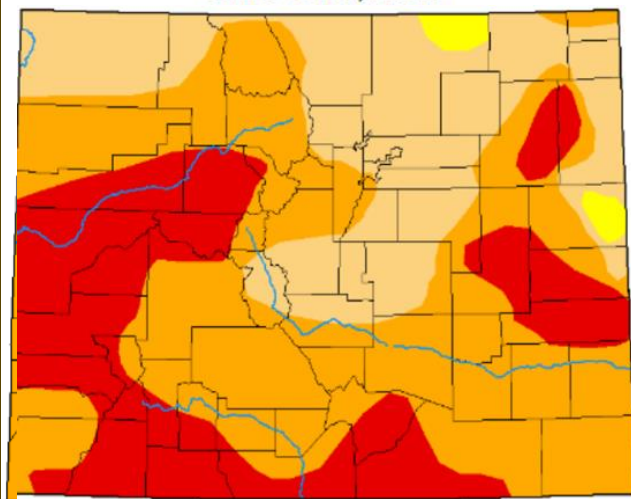
United States Drought Monitor - Colorado



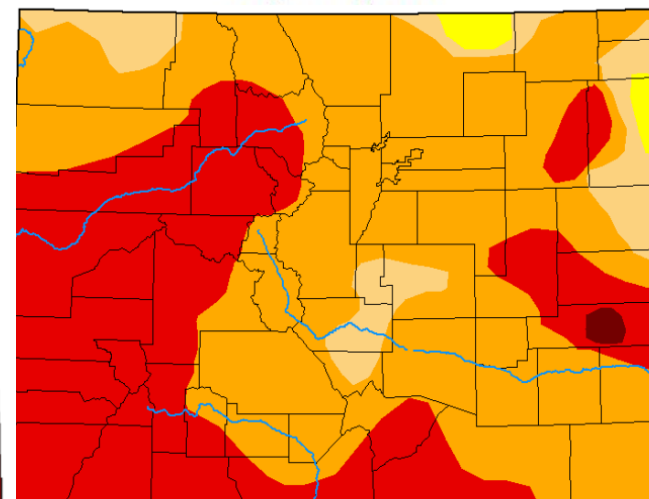
June 23rd, 2020



July 21st, 2020



August 18th, 2020



September 1st 2020

Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CO>

Cameron Peak Fire



The hot and dry weather also resulted in several fires across the high country, some of which were very large. The Pine Gulch Fire which burned over 138000 acres of forest is the largest fire in Colorado history, while the Cameron Peak is the 4th largest. Other notable fires were the Williams Fork and Grizzly Creek Fires. Smoke from these fires as well as fires across other western states produced hazy and smoky skies across the region through much of the month.

Photo Courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Area Incident Management Team.

There were 8 days with thunder and no days with hail or fog observed at Denver International Airport in August 2020. The strongest wind gust occurred three times during the month on August 4th, 6th and 25th.

